Council, the backward communities generally failed to secure representation by election. One of the reasons for the failure was the incorrect preparation of the electoral rolls by the Provertikars who omitted the names of the eligible persons belonging to other communities and included inelgible men belonging to their own communities. There was delay in issue of *pattas*. These vagaries should be stopped and the franchise should be broadened. Those who pay a tax of one rupee or more should be made eligible to vote. If this could not be done, those who pay a tax of Rs. 5 or more even though not in their own names should be declared eligible to vote. In making nomina tions also, backward communities should be represented according to their numerical strength. The Ezhavas who numbered 850,000 should be assigned at last 4 seats in the Council.

The Ezhavas and other backward communities due to their backwardness in education and certain other disabilities could not occupy high positions in service. But the number of educated men had increased. These should be encouraged by entertaining them in the places for which they were qualified.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Martandan Vaidyan, it is hoped that the report of the recruitment Committee will enable us to solve some of your difficulties. Anyhow, I can assure you that the communities for which you have spoken will have their claims duly considered.

**164. Nanjinad Vellalas and public service.**

MR. S. AZHAKIANAYAKAM PILLAI (*Agastisvaram taluk*) said that the Nanjinad Vellalas formed an important agricultural community in the State who were governed by a personal law of their own. They differed in manners and customs from other communities. They had in the past held high and responsible posts in Government service faithfully and loyally. They also contributed a large share of land revenue from Nanjinad occupied chiefly by them. It was deplorable that in recent times they were not adequately represented in the public service and that in several cases, their claims were even ignored. There was not a single Nanjinad Vellala drawing a salary of over Rs. 150 while those who were drawing between Rs. 100 and Rs. 150 were very few. Qualified men were not wanting in the co nmunity. It was due to the indifference on the part of the Government that these men were not entertained. The member said that in the matter of appointments, the principle to be followed should be that every community should have a fair representation, prominence being given to it according to the proportion of the State revenue contributed by it. This was a sound principle because the people who paid revenue to the Government had a permanent stake in the country. The very same principle was accepted by companies in selecting their directors.

The Nanjinad Vellalas were classified along with the Tamilians for purposes of appointment to the public service. There was no rhyme or reason in such classification. Language was not the criterion in classifying communities. If this were so, the Brahmin community

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

also should be included among the Tamilians. The chief distinguishing elements of a community were the law governing it and their manners and customs. In these respects, the Nanjinad Vellalas stood aloof from the rest of the Vellalas and the Tamilians in general. This community should therefore be treated as a separate community for purposes of appointment in the public service and it should be adequately represented therein.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Azhakiannayakam Pillai, Government do not recognise any Tamilian community. Vellalas are shown as a separate community altogether. Whether the Nanjinad Vellalas should be another separate community is a matter which may be considered. It is up to the members of your community to qualify themselves; and then, they will find when recruitment is placed on a proper basis, that they have no grievances.

**165. Hindu Nadars and public service.**

MR. A. RAMASWAMI NADAR (*Nominated*) said that the Hindu Nadar community was one of the major communities in the State but that it was not adequately represented in the public service. This was due to the step-motherly treatment accorded to it by the Government in this respect. The officers having powers of appointment were often actuated by communal considerations. Appointments in the public service should be common to all communities and so long as communal distinctions existed, each community should be given appointments according to its numerical strength. The Hindu Nadars were not holding even one per cent. of the total number of appointments in the State. During the regime of Dewan Mr. V. S. Subrahmanya Aiyar, a Public Service Committee was constituted to solve the problem of recruitment to Government service but the Committee had not yet begun its work. This should be begun without delay. The committee should be allowed to submit its reports only after a full enquiry and after taking expert evidence from members of every community in different parts of the State. In Mysore and Madras, public service commissions were in existence and a similar commission should be constituted in Travancore also and it should be a mixed body of officials and non-officials

A circular should be issued to heads of all departments directing them to give better encouragement to Hindu Nadars in their departments.

Lastly, the member said that one more member of his community should be nominated to the Assembly and one member to the Legislative Council.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Nadar, it is intended that the Recruitment Committee should start work as soon as possible, and also finish its work as soon as possible.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 2-3 P. M. and re-assembled at 3-7 P. M.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly